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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6350

March 31, 2004

VIA FACSIMILE
ORIGINAL BY U.S. MAIL

The Honorable Robert Burton
Acting Administrator
Office of Federal Procurement Policy
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Mr. Burton:

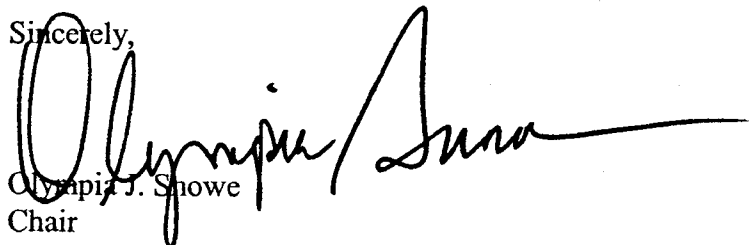
Small businesses continue to be the driving force behind our economic recovery. A majority of the jobs created in the last year have come from small business. As you know, the Federal government boosts small business growth and job creation when it awards contracts with small business. According to recent data from the Federal Procurement Data Center, in Fiscal Year 2003, the Federal government awarded small businesses \$62.7 billion in prime contracts which will create or retain approximately 439,632 jobs.

As Chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I am concerned that small businesses continue to struggle to gain access to the Federal marketplace. This in turn limits opportunities for small businesses to expand, stunts the creation of new jobs, and halts the economic growth of the nation.

Last March, I held a hearing on contract bundling and heard about the President's plan to improve contract opportunities for small business. At that time, a representative of the General Accounting Office expressed concern that "measures and information necessary to monitor agencies' efforts . . ." had not been identified. I have recently learned that several agencies may not be in compliance with certain requirements of the plan. Therefore, please identify what specific steps you have taken to establish appropriate metrics to monitor and measure agency efforts to comply with the President's plan, and hold agencies accountable for improving small business participation in Federal procurement.

Please provide me with this information by April 16, 2004. Thank you for your cooperation in responding to this request. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Nancyellen Gentile at (202) 224-5175.

Sincerely,


Olympia J. Snowe
Chair